9078 Postel

Network Working Group
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# UNKNOWN HOST NUMBERS

In response to a recent minor flurry of confusion, it seems worth announcing publicly the fact that new IMPs are tested (almost always) on the ARPA Net here at BBN before delivery to the intended site. Accordingly, sites should not be surprised to receive RFCs or at least RSTs from IMPs or Hosts they thought didn't exist, or at least did not exist yet.

Occasionally, IMPs of some given configuration are tested in a mode where they announce their IMP number as different from what it will be when finally installed. A variety of reasons may create such a situation. The latest such occurrence is that a TIP, to be installed shortly at ETAC with IMP number $20_{10}$ (replacing the 316 IMP now at ETAC which is number $20_{10}$) was recently tested here with McClellan's IMP number ($22_{10}$). (It couldn't be tested with its own number since the 316 IMP currently at ETAC is using that number.) The result was RSTs from the TIP (Host 3) at IMP $22_{10}$ — which is Network address $150_{10}$ ($226_8$ or $96_{16}$).

One site asked if their Host tables needed updating. The answer is NO. We fully expect IMPs tested under these circumstances to be ignored or CLS'd by some Hosts. We suggest that Host tables (where they are thought to be necessary) be modified only in response to official notification from BBN via either an RFC or an update to Appendix A of BBN Report #1822.

RA/jm